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## News Items

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[March 20] Mike Flynn Budget; Women's History Month Event; STAA Recognition; OCFO Diaper Drive; Video-Coeur d'Alene Basin; Coeur d'Alene Basin; Coeur d'Alene Basin; FY17 Training; Section 508 webinars

by Kampen, Kendall at 2:50 PM in [EPA Newsletter](#)



## Senior Leadership Message

Colleagues,

As an alumni of the University of North Carolina and a diehard Tar Heels basketball fan, I couldn't be more excited about the beginning of 'March Madness' last week. Every year I'm impressed by the tremendous talent, teamwork, and sheer determination displayed by the teams in this tournament. It's a strong reminder for me of the incredible EPA team that I've seen work together to tackle countless challenges – responding to emergencies, major regulatory and enforcement efforts, complex negotiations, tight deadlines, declining resources, and difficult administrative challenges. In every instance, you rose to the occasion and put your heart and soul into doing your best to help us accomplish our mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Last week you heard that the Office of Management and Budget released the President's 2018 budget blueprint. The request provides EPA with funding of \$5.65 billion and approximately 3200 fewer positions, which represents a 31 percent reduction from levels contained in the annualized 2017 Continuing Resolution. Funding reductions were made across all domestic agencies to support the President's vision to increase funding for defense, homeland security, and veterans programs. If you would like to [read the budget](#), you can find the EPA section on pages 41-42.

As we go through this time, it's important for all of us to remember several things. First, we are in the early stages of a long budget development process, and funding levels will not be finalized until Congress acts. Second, your work — the mission of the Agency — is very important, and it's critical that you continue to focus on the important work you do. And finally, remember you are part of a strong EPA team, one that has worked together to accomplish great things in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

I am very proud to be one of your colleagues, and thank you again for your continued dedication and hard work.

Mike Flynn

Acting Deputy Administrator

## Hot Topics

## National Women's History Month Celebration

The 2017 Federal Triangle Partnership Women's History Month Celebration is scheduled for March 23, from 2 p.m.–3 p.m. EDT, in the Department of Commerce Auditorium (1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230).

This year's theme is, "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business". We are

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thrilled to have a panel discussion that will include local women business owners sharing their journey to ownership and an expert from the Small Business Administration that will share tips on starting a small business. This event promises to be educational and impactful! We look forward to seeing you there.

The event will be broadcast through [EPAtv](#) the following day at 1 p.m. EDT.

People needing reasonable accommodations should contact Cristina Bartolomei, 202-482-8183.

### Published articles can earn EPA authors prestigious STAA recognition

EPA employees have a chance to earn up to a \$10,000 Level I award for their published work as part of the prestigious [2017 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards](#) (STAA). A Level II award can land authors \$5,000, and a Level III award \$2,000. The program, managed by the Office of Research and Development, is open for nominations March 20 through April 21.

Each year, EPA recognizes outstanding papers written by its staff and published in scientific and technical journals. These peer-reviewed publications represent the quality and depth of EPA science, and they provide foundational support to agency decision making and advancement of science.

Any EPA employee can recognize an EPA published peer. Nominations are being accepted via electronic submission to [STAA Nomination Database](#).

Learn more about the [nomination procedures and guidelines](#).

### OCFO diaper drive helps families in need

In recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and as a service project for Black History Month, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) recently wrapped up its second annual Diaper Drive to benefit local diaper banks in DC, RTP, Cincinnati, and Las Vegas. If you didn't know that diaper banks existed, you are not alone. While they may not be as well-known as food banks or other community service initiatives, organizations like the [DC Diaper Bank \(Exit\)](#) and many others across the country provide a very important service by collecting and distributing diapers to social service organizations that help families in need.

This year, OCFO employees, along with colleagues from OAR and OCIR, collected 7,420 diapers and 9,176 baby wipes. These diapers and wipes will go to local diaper banks, where they will be distributed to help families in need.

Thank you to all of the employees who contributed to help make this project a success and for helping to make children safer, healthier, and happier!

### Learn how Skills Marketplace can be a success for you

Visit [Talent Hub](#) to check out how Skills Marketplace can support your future development at EPA.

Over 500 Skills Marketplace projects have been completed since the program launched in August 2014. Its success has helped managers better meet their office's needs, while continuing to develop EPA's greatest resource – our people.

Speaking of success, we'd like to highlight a project that recently concluded in EPA's Office of Homeland Security (OHS). They needed to assess risks and vulnerabilities of chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) threat agents and develop response policies in relation to EPA's mission – for example, ways to protect the nation's drinking water supply from a CBR attack.

The six-person team that was established through Skills Marketplace included participants from across the Agency who contributed to an analytical tool to help evaluate risks of several biological agents. The participants accessed classified threat information to assist EPA in assessing these types of threats. The Agency uses this critical information to develop priorities and recommend future investments in preparedness.

The participants gained a much deeper level of information and expertise from across

government and from academicians regarding the rapidly evolving field of synthetic biology. At the same time, this effort heightened EPA's stature with a number of government partners and enhanced their understanding of EPA's expertise.

Interested in ways to develop your career? Get started by watching the short Talent Hub [video](#) and update your profile in [My Stuff](#) to be notified of new opportunities that match your interests

## Key Dates

### Happening This Week:

March 21: [Quick Guide to Journal Evaluation Metrics webinar](#)

March 23: [Women's History Month event](#)

### Coming Soon:

April 6: [Lean Overview webinar](#)

March 28: [WCAG 2.0 and the Revised Section 508 Standards webinar](#)

March 30: [CDC 500 Cities Project webinar](#)

May 4: [Lean Overview webinar](#)

May 30: [Old versus New: Original Section 508 Standards \(2000\) compared to the Revised Section 508 Standards \(2017\) webinar](#)

## Video Spotlight

[Coeur d'Alene Basin: Partnering with Community for a Successful Cleanup](#)

## Career Corner

### FY 17 required training available via e-Learning reminder

On March 8, OARM Acting Assistant Administrator, Donna Vizian sent a message to all EPA staff outlining the required training for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. Everyone has training requirements, although they differ slightly depending on the group under which an individual falls. The four groups are:

1. Current Federal Employees (including Pathways students);
2. All New Federal Employees (including Pathways students) On-boarded in FY 2017;
3. Current Contractors, SEEs, and Grantees; and
4. New Contractors, SEEs, and Grantees On-boarded in FY 2017.

For detailed information, please review [Donna's message](#) or visit the SharePoint [EPA University Mandatory Training site](#).

## IT Corner

### Webinar series aims to update workers on Section 508 Standards

EPA is updating its Section 508 policies, procedures, and guidance to comply with the refreshed Section 508 standards. This refresh updates and reorganizes Section 508 standards in response to market trends and innovations. The refresh also harmonizes requirements with other guidelines and standards in the United States and abroad.

The U.S. Access Board offers the following series of free trainings to help bring you up to speed:

- o [March 28, 1-2:30 p.m. \(EDT\): WCAG 2.0 and the Revised Section 508 Standards](#)
- o [May 30, 1-2:30 p.m. \(EDT\): Old versus New: Original Section 508 Standards \(2000\) compared to the Revised Section 508 Standards \(2017\)](#)
- o [July 25, 1-2:30 p.m. \(EDT\): Revised Section 508 Chapter 4 Hardware \(including](#)

- Mobile)
- o Sept. 26, 1-2:30 p.m. (EDT): Revised Section 508 Chapter 5 Software (including Mobile)
- o Nov. 28, 1-2:30 p.m. (EDT): W3C WCAG 2.0 Resources

Webinar details and registration information is available on the [Great Lakes Americans with Disabilities Act Center website \(Exit\)](#). EPA's Section 508 Program will share additional information with employees as it updates EPA's own Section 508 policies, procedures, and guidance.

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